

35.C15977



#4 2853
PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
:)
SHINICHI SATO, et al.)
: Group Art Unit: 2853
Application No.: 09/994,724)
:)
Filed: November 28, 2001)
:)
For: INK, INK-JET INK, INK)
TANK, INK-JET)
CARTRIDGE, INK SUPPLY)
DEVICE, METHOD FOR)
INTRODUCING INK TO)
INK TANK AND IMAGE)
RECORDING DEVICE)
December 18, 2001

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each document so listed is enclosed.

U.S. Patent 5,790,157

Japan 7-60984

The foregoing documents turned up during pre-filing activities in connection with the preparation of the subject application.

U.S. Patent 5,790,5,790,157 is believed to be an English language counterpart of the above-cited Japan 7-60984.

Inasmuch as this application has not yet received a first Office Action on the merits, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialling the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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